(b) if so, whether Government proposed any new schemes to provide better health care facility to the rural poor; and

(c) if so, the details of such schemes and the proposed financial allocation for such schemes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government has already launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005 for a period of 7 years with the objective to provide comprehensive public health care facility in the entire country with special focus on rural areas. The NRHM envisages improvements in range and quality of hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. The NRHM further aims to provide overarching umbrella to the existing National programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, Malaria, Blindness, Iodine deficiency, Filaria, Kala Azar, T.B., Leprosy and Integrated Disease Surveillance. Further, it addresses the issue of health in a sector-wide manner addressing sanitation and hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water as basic determinants of good health. The initiatives under NRHM are benefiting the weaker sections including the poorer and minority community. An amount of Rs. 12050 crore has been allocated under NRHM for the FY 2008-09.

Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme

883. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose and feature of Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme and how it has been in force;

(b) though it is a very good scheme, why it has not been taken off;

(c) where exactly it has been held up for all these years; and

(d) why there is no preventive or curative action all these years?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme, implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), loans at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum for assessed requirement of capital expenditure and working capital are made available by banks to registered institutions producing khadi and polyvastra items. The difference between the actual interest rate of the bank and 4 per cent is paid by the Central Government through KVIC to the lending bank. Assistance under the ISEC scheme was also available to village industry units set up prior to 1 April, 1995. Presently, the assistance under the ISEC Scheme is available only to the khadi institutions and polyvastra village industry (VI) units as other VI units are benefited under other credit-linked subsidy schemes, namely, Rural Employment Generation Programme (implemented from 1995-96 to 2007-08) / Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (2008-09 onwards).

(b) and (c) The scheme is being implemented since 1977-78 without interruption and loans have been provided by the Banks to the khadi and village industry (KVI) institutions implementing khadi and polyvastra programme, after taking into account the assessment certificates issued by KVIC. During 2007-08, loans estimated at Rs. 227.62 crore have been provided by the Banks under the ISEC Scheme.

(d) The Government as a matter of policy is committed to ensuring steady flow of institutional credit for this segment of khadi and village industry. The implementation of the scheme is monitored periodically at various levels in order to further smoothen the flow of credit to them. KVIC also regularly interacts with banks in order to overcome various issues involved in the funding under ISEC Scheme. A meeting has been held on September 29, 2008 by Secretary to the Government of India (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) with the officials concerned of the Reserve Bank of India and KVIC to further improve the implementation of the ISEC Scheme.

Plan to upgrade SMEs

884. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn up an ambitious plan to upgrade SMEs with the help of foreign designers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof *interalia* indicating those which are proposed to be upgraded in Orissa and Jharkhand States to improve the economy of these regions?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Ministry of MSME has drawn up a National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme to upgrade small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through various interventions, one of which will concentrate on improving designs. Specificities of the proposed scheme will be worked out once a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is finalized.

Failure of ISEC Scheme

885. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) who is mainly responsible for the failure of Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme, concerned bank or KVIC;

(b) whether there is an evaluation study on this and if so, what are their findings;

(c) whether the recommendations been implemented and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) at what time there could be a steady credit flow from the banks to the implementing agencies of KVIC?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme, implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), has not been a failure as loans have been provided by the Banks to the khadi and village industry (KVI) institutions implementing khadi and polyvastra programme, after taking into account the assessment certificates issued by KVIC. During 2007-08, loans estimated at Rs. 227.62 crore have been provided by the Banks under the ISEC Scheme.

(b) and (c) An evaluation study of the ISEC Scheme has been got conducted by KVIC through an independent professional agency, which has submitted its final report during the second quarter of 2008-09. The main findings of evaluation study of the scheme include:–